

2/99

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## UPDATE ON PERCHLORATE

### TOP PRIORITIES:

\*EPA has been working in partnership with state, federal, and tribal agencies, as well as water suppliers and the private sector to address a recently discovered threat to water supplies from a component of solid rocket fuel and other sources. An Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee is co-chaired by the EPA and is comprised of 18 state, federal, and tribal agencies.

\*Prior to 4/97, perchlorate ( $\text{ClO}_4^-$ ) could not be detected in low concentrations and little was known about potential health effects, how to remove it from water or occurrence in the environment. In 4/97, the CA Department of Health Services (CA DHS) developed a new analytical method to detect very low levels of perchlorate (4 ppb) in water.

\*Significant research has been carried out at a greatly accelerated pace to study human health effects/toxicity of perchlorate, examine possible ecological impacts, refine analytical methods, develop innovative treatment technologies, increase occurrence data, and keep stakeholders informed and involved. Ten experts are meeting in San Bernardino, CA on Feb. 10-11, 1999 for an external peer review of the draft toxicology assessment; this meeting is open to the public.

\*There is no federal MCL for perchlorate. Perchlorate is on EPA's Contaminant Candidate List identified as a contaminant needing additional research in a number of areas. No systematic survey of perchlorate occurrence or exposure characterization has been made and represents a key data gap in EPA's ability to characterize risk.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

\*Within the last two years, this chemical has been found in the water supply of over 15 million people in CA, NV and AZ and in surface or groundwater throughout the United States (TX, UT, NM, NY, AR, MD, IA, IN, PA, WV).

\*Proposed oral reference dose (RfD) in the draft report is .0009 milligrams/kilogram/day. If a standard adult model (70 kilograms, 2 liters per day) is used to translate this figure into a drinking water level, the result is 32 ppb. If other models are used and/or changes made in application of the uncertainty factors, the drinking water level could be decreased or increased significantly. In CA, there is an action level for perchlorate of 18ppb, and most other states have accepted this level as safe although no others have formally adopted an action level. In CA, 144 public water supply wells have perchlorate above 4 ppb. Only 38 public supply wells have detectable MTBE in CA, per CA DHS.

### RESOURCES:

<u>FY 99 Pres Budget</u>	<u>FY 99 Enacted</u>	<u>FY 00 Pres Budget</u>
\$x.xM, x.x FTE	\$x.xM, x.x FTE	\$x.xM, x.x FTE
Breakout Activities		